

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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/059 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JO'KEEFE
APPROVED BY D:WCHRISTOPHER
EUR:WLUERS
SY:TSHEA
EUR/EE:NGANDREWS

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O 050059Z MAR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056348

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (TITO, JOSIP BROZ) YO US

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND
YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR

1. IN A MEETING BETWEEN THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR
BELOVSKY, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY EXPRESSED HIS REGRETS AND
SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THE FIREBOMBING OF THE YUGOSLAV
CONSULATE IN SAN FRANCISCO. CHRISTOPHER SAID WE WERE IN
THE PROCESS OF CONTACTING LOCAL POLICE AND POLICE CHIEFS
TO REITERATE OUR DESIRE FOR SPECIAL SECURITY OF YUGOSLAV
PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY. HE FURTHER STATED THAT HE WOULD
CALL THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TODAY IN REGARD TO THIS UNFORTU-
NATE OCCURANCE. CHRISTOPHER INFORMED BELOVSKY THAT THE
VICE PRESIDENT CALLED TO EXPRESS HIS ABHORRENCE FOR THE
ACT AND HIS PERSONAL DESIRE FOR A PLEASANT AND TRANQUIL
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VISIT.

2. BELOVSKY EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT LAST NIGHT'S BOMB-
ING, COUPLED WITH THE RADOVIC SHOOTING IN NEW YORK INDICATED
A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER. HE ALSO LINKED THE NAME OF
MIKULIC (A SUSPECTED TERRORIST) TO THE ORGANIZERS
OF THE DEMONSTRATION. HIS MAIN POINT, HOWEVER, WAS THAT

HE WAS PROMISED TITO WOULD NOT BE FACED WITH UNPLEASANT-

NESS, AND ASKED THAT DEMONSTRATIONS NOT BE ALLOWED IN AN AREA WHERE THEY MIGHT DISTURB TITO. HE SAID THE PAST SIX MONTHS HAVE BROUGHT A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, BUT INCIDENTS WOULD THROW A SHADOW OVER THE VISIT, AND WOULD PROVOKE NOT ONLY TITO, BUT THE POLITICAL LEADERS AND PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA AS WELL. BELOVSKI STATED THAT THE DECISION TO LIMIT TITO'S TRAVEL IN THE U.S. TO WASHINGTON WAS BASED ON ASSURANCES THAT TITO WOULD NOT BE EXPOSED TO DISTURBING INCIDENTS AND QUOTE THE LEAST TO BE DONE IS TO STICK TO THE ARRANGEMENT OF MOVING THE DEMONSTRATORS TO ANOTHER LOCATION UNQUOTE.

3. CHRISTOPHER REPLIED THAT WE WON'T TOLERATE DISORDERLY DEMONSTRATIONS, BUT WE ARE BOUND TO PAY HEED TO THE 1ST AMENDMENT RIGHTS AS GUARANTEED IN THE CONSTITUTION. (THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL EXPLAINED THE LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS ISSUE IN A MEETING WITH BELOVSKI YESTERDAY). CHRISTOPHER FURTHER STATED THAT IF ANY NEW EVIDENCE SUPPORTING CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER AROSE IN THE NEXT 48 HOURS, WE WOULD PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH COURT PROCEEDINGS. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT RECOMMENDED THE STRONGEST ACTION POSSIBLE WITHIN THE LAW REGARDING ANTI-YUGOSLAV DEMONSTRATIONS. CHRISTOPHER CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT CURRENT EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO US SUPPORTED NEITHER REVOKING OF PERMITS NOR MOVING THE DEMONSTRATION TO THE MALL. HE ASSURED BELOVSKI THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT SECURITY FOR TITO IS MORE THAN ADEQUATE, AND WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO AVOID DISCOMFORT TO PRESIDENT TITO. BELOVSKI LEFT UNSATISFIED. CHRISTOPHER

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